



**The American Jewish Committee**

Office of Government and International Affairs

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Re: **CAFE Amendment to H.R.3893**

October 6, 2005

Dear Representative:

The American Jewish Committee (AJC), a national human-relations organization with more than 150,000 members and supporters represented by 33 regional chapters, is a long-time advocate of the need to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign energy sources. Reducing America's dependence on foreign energy sources is an important step towards increasing our national security, reaffirming our continued role as a global leader, and assuring the economic and social well-being of our country. Strengthening Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards is one important means to achieve this goal. We urge you to support the Boehlert-Markey initiative—whether as an amendment to the Gasoline for America Security Act of 2005 (H.R.3893) or as stand-alone legislation (H.R.3762)—to increase the Corporate Fuel Economy of America's motor vehicles to 33 miles per gallon by 2016.

Specifically, the swift adoption of significant, tough and more consistent CAFE standards for cars and trucks must be part of the overall effort to efficiently use and conserve energy—an effort that will, coupled with increased production and attention to alternative sources of energy, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign energy sources. CAFE standards have fallen shamefully out of date; updating and reinvigorating them is a sensible and necessary step toward reducing our nation's dependence on foreign energy sources.

The September 11 terrorist attacks against the United States, our ongoing war on terror, and the war in Iraq underscore the extent to which our national security and position as the leader of the free world are seriously undermined by America's energy dependence on unstable or hostile foreign nations. In light of these concerns, AJC has urged the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced energy program, aimed at substantial reduction in U.S. dependence on imported petroleum with the potential for energy flexibility and energy near-independence in the longer term. Any comprehensive plan must include strengthened CAFE standards.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this most pressing matter.

Respectfully,

Richard T. Foltin  
Legislative Director and Counsel

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Advancing democracy, pluralism and mutual understanding